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the[1,definite article] Go

Main Entry: **1the**
Pronunciation: *before consonants usually* [th]&, *before vowels usually* [th]E, *esp Southern before vowels also* [th]&; *for emphasis before titles and names or to suggest uniqueness often* '[th]E
Function: *definite article*
Etymology: Middle English, from Old English *thE,* masc. demonstrative pronoun & definite article, alteration (influenced by oblique cases -- as *thæs,* genitive -- & neuter, *thæt*) of *sE;* akin to Greek *ho,* masculine demonstrative pronoun & definite article -- more at THAT
Date: before 12th century
1 a -- used as a function word to indicate that a following noun or noun equivalent is definite or has been previously specified by context or by circumstance <put *the* cat out> **b** -- used as a function word to indicate that a following noun or noun equivalent is a unique or a particular member of its class <*the* President> <*the* Lord> **c** -- used as a function word before nouns that designate natural phenomena or points of the compass <*the* night is cold> **d** -- used as a function word before a noun denoting time to indicate reference to what is present or immediate or is under consideration <in *the* future> **e** -- used as a function word before names of some parts of the body or of the clothing as an equivalent of a possessive adjective <how's *the* arm today> **f** -- used as a function word before the name of a branch of human endeavor or proficiency <*the* law> **g** -- used as a function word in prepositional phrases to indicate that the noun in the phrase serves as a basis for computation <sold by *the* dozen> **h** -- used as a function word before a proper name (as of a ship or a well-known building) <*the* Mayflower> **i** -- used as a function word before the plural form of a numeral that is a multiple of ten to denote a particular decade of a century or of a person's life <life in *the* twenties> **j** -- used as a function word before the name of a commodity or any familiar appurtenance of daily life to indicate reference to the individual thing, part, or supply thought of as at hand <talked on *the* telephone> **k** -- used as a function word to designate one of a class as the best, most typical, best known, or most worth singling out <this is *the* life> <*the* Pill> -- sometimes used before a personal name to denote the most prominent bearer of that name
2 a (1) -- used as a function word with a noun modified by an adjective or by an attributive noun to limit the application of the modified noun to that specified by the adjective or by the attributive noun <*the* right answer> <Peter *the* Great> (2) -- used as a function word before an absolute adjective or an ordinal number <nothing but *the* best> <due on *the* first> **b** (1) -- used as a function word before a noun to limit its application to that specified by a succeeding element in the

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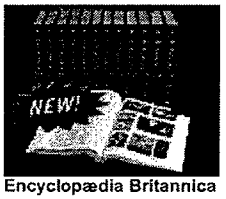

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sentence <*the* poet Wordsworth> <*the* days of our youth> <didn't have *the* time to write> (2) -- used as a function word after a person's name to indicate a characteristic trait or notorious activity specified by the succeeding noun <Jack *the* Ripper>
3 a -- used as a function word before a singular noun to indicate that the noun is to be understood generically <*the* dog is a domestic animal> **b** -- used as a function word before a singular substantivized adjective to indicate an abstract idea <an essay on *the* sublime>
4 -- used as a function word before a noun or a substantivized adjective to indicate reference to a group as a whole <*the* elite>

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Pronunciation Symbols

\&\ as **a** and **u** in **a**b**u**t	\e\ as **e** in b**e**t	\o\ as **aw** in l**aw**
\ᵊ\ as **e** in kitt**e**n	\E\ as **ea** in **ea**sy	\oi\ as **oy** in b**oy**
\&r\ as **ur/er** in f**ur**th**er**	\g\ as **g** in **g**o	\th\ as **th** in **th**in
\a\ as **a** in **a**sh	\i\ as **i** in h**i**t	\[th]\ as **th** in **th**e
\A\ as **a** in **a**ce	\I\ as **i** in **i**ce	\ü\ as **oo** in l**oo**t
\ä\ as **o** in m**o**p	\j\ as **j** in **j**ob	\u\ as **oo** in f**oo**t
\au\ as **ou** in **ou**t	\[ng]\ as **ng** in si**ng**	\y\ as **y** in **y**et
\ch\ as **ch** in **ch**in	\O\ as **o** in g**o**	\zh\ as **si** in vi**si**on

For more information see the Guide To Pronunciation.

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